(c) The completion of the work will depend upon the overall availability of resources and no target date for completion of the work has yet been fixed.

(d) An amount of Rs. 10.00 crore has been provided for the work in Budget 2006-07.

(e) A total of 11 stations comprising of 4 halt stations and 7 crossing stations have been proposed on the section excluding Bidar (Khanapur) and Gulbarga which are existing stations.

Special purpose vehicles to fund port connectivity

3002. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry plans to set up seven special purpose vehicles to fund port connectivity projects with public private partnership;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating those falling in the Orissa State; and

(c) how far these project would help the steel plants located in Orissa in fast movement of freight traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) and (b) Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) has signed five Memorandum of Understanding for creating project specific Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for following port connectivity projects—Bharuch-Dahej Gauge Conversion, Surat-Hazira New Line, Bhildi-Samdari Gauge Conversion, Obulavaripalle-Krishnapatnam, New Line, and Haridaspur-Paradip New Line. Haridaspur-Paradip New Line is the only port connectivity project in Orissa with public-private partnership.

(c) Haridaspur-Paradip New Line in Orissa is expected to handle iron ore traffic between Banspani and Paradip Port and Coking Coal from Paradip Port to various steel plants.

Upgradation scheme in Orissa

3003. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start up-gradation scheme of rail

reservation for wait-listed passengers in which the wait-listed passengers will get automatically upgraded to the next higher class;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of trains traversing through Orissa state there are proposed to be covered under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) to (c) To ensure optimum utilization of available accommodation, a scheme to upgrade full fare paying confirmed and not waitlisted passengers to the next higher class has been launched in all Mail/Express trains, having sleeping accommodation, including those traversing through Orissa with effect from 24/02/2006.

East Coast Railway

3004. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that East Coast Railway has picked up both in freight and passenger traffic during the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan to create additional rail infrastructure facilities to cope with the increased freight and passenger traffic on this rail system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The revenue earning originating freight loading in the current fiscal year has shown an improvement of 12.27% in its first month *i.e.* April' 06 over that recorded during corresponding month of previous financial year. Although the passenger traffic recorded a growth of 10.53% in 2005-06 as compared to the previous years, the initial estimate of passenger earning in April' 06 indicates a growth of 0.03% over April'05.

(c) A large number of projects like new line, doubling works, traffic facilities work, railway electrification works and other works have been sanctioned on East Coast Railway and the works are in progress. The